



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 9, 2007

CONTACT: BreAnda Northcutt
(916) 324 9670

Statement by Cal/EPA Secretary on Automakers Suit in Vermont over States' Adoption of California's GHG Standards for Cars

SACRAMENTO – Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection, issued the following statement regarding the trial starting today in Vermont over the state's global warming emissions standards for motor vehicles:

"Despite overwhelming scientific evidence, strong public support and a moral obligation to fight global warming, the standards we have adopted to reduce global warming emissions from new motor vehicles continue to face challenges in the courts. In Vermont, state officials are fighting to preserve a state's right to protect its citizens with standards stronger than those from the federal government.

"The U.S. Supreme Court's decision last week that greenhouse gases are pollutants and should be regulated by the federal government provides further momentum to our states' efforts. We can't wait to clean up our air - the public's health depends on it. The time for action is now. Industries across the country are reducing their global warming pollution, creating jobs and strengthening their global competitiveness. We urge the world's carmakers to join in our efforts. Together we can implement standards and advance technologies that will protect public health, improve our environment and strengthen the auto industry's ability to compete in a world marketplace that shares our environmental values."

California is facing a lawsuit similar to Vermont's resulting from the regulations approved by the California Air Resources Board in September 2004 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles. The Board took this action because a California law was enacted in 2002 (AB 1493, Pavley) that directed the Board to adopt regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, California has the right to set its own vehicle emission standards, and other states have the right to adopt the California standards as their own. Ten other states – Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Washington and Oregon – adopted these global warming standards; three more states – New Mexico, Arizona, and Maryland – are in the process of doing so now. Automakers have brought lawsuits in California, Vermont, and Rhode Island. The Vermont suit is the first to go to trial.

#